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Living Springs

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Cedarville College

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**A Monthly  
Inspirational Paper  
For Senior Citizens**

# *Living Springs*

MARCH 1984  
Vol. 7 No. 8

by CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

When it is quiet and I am alone, I will not despair...

I shall go out alone  
Tonight beneath the stars,  
I shall forget the world  
With its wars and rumors of wars;

I shall lift my face to the sky,  
To its friendly fires and feel  
The night winds reaching its hands  
Into my heart to heal.

The darkness will soothe my eyes  
That have looked too long at the light;  
The clamor within my ears  
Will cease in the soundless night;

And perhaps I shall find again  
A thing I have lost for long:  
Laughter upon my lips,  
And a light-hearted song.

by Grace Noll Crowell

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,  
whose mind is stayed in thee:  
because he trusteth in thee.

Trust ye in the Lord forever:  
For in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Isaiah 26: 3,4

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# Spending Time Alone With God

by  
Sharon Banzhof

Telephone calls, friends stopping in to say hello, chatting over an evening snack, going to the local donut shop, helping someone with a daily chore, sharing the day's trials and triumphs with my family, shopping in a busy mall, going to sports events, teaching children in Bible Club. All these are events which are present in my daily life. Each includes other people: in some cases one or two and in other cases many others. I find that sharing, helping, and being with close friends and acquaintances play a very important part in my life. But I have become aware that some of the most valuable time of my life is spent alone-eating by myself in the cafeteria from time to time, sitting on a bench in the sunshine watching passers-by, being in my room when everyone else is out. It is during these times that I observe others and their reactions to circumstances, think of my own life and future goals and, more importantly, consider what God has planned for my life. Time alone with the Lord, whether spent in prayer, Bible reading, or just meditating, is a necessary part of the life of a Christian who is truly seeking to know God. In the moments of solitude spent with God are molded our innermost thoughts and values which are visible in our everyday life through our responses and reactions.

There are many examples in Scripture of people who sought to know God and found His will through quality time alone with Him. Specific instances of private time with the Lord are found in the lives of David, Solomon, Hannah, Daniel, Joshua, Hosea, Gideon, and Peter; but, the prime example can be found in the life of our Lord. To me, this is surprising. Jesus Christ, the son of the Almighty God, who shed His blood for our sins, who committed no sin, and therefore had nothing to confess, found that time alone with God in prayer was an integral part of His life. As a youth, Christ intently studied the Word and shared His profound knowledge in the temple to the amazement of the elders. In John 17, we find Christ praying to God in an intercessory prayer

for the saved ones on earth. Matthew 14:22-23 states that Christ told His disciples to get into a boat. He then sent the multitudes away and went to a mountain to pray. In Matthew 26:36-39, Christ told the disciples to stay while He took three men with Him to pray. After Christ had healed a man who was paralyzed in Luke 6:6-12, we find that He again left the people and went to a mountain to pray alone. And again in Luke 9:18, the disciples saw Christ praying alone. Christ had no sins to confess, so why did He spend time alone with the Father? It was this communication with God that strengthened the life of Christ and gave Him the ability to share His life with us.

In one perspective, it may seem unfitting that the Lord gave us a human nature that has a tendency to easily put off or cut back on our private times with the Father. Many unsuspecting obstacles or an outright neglectful or uncaring attitude can slide into our life and seem to warrant the limiting or total abandonment of our fellowship with God. On the other hand, if we are aware of this inclination and how easily we can slip away from God, the ever-threatening reality of losing touch with God can be used to help enrich and bring to light the importance of our quiet times.

Yes, it is necessary to spend time in fellowship with other people to encourage them, to be an example to them, and also to receive encouragement from them and to share our experiences and our insights. But, if Christ found it important to meditate on the things of God, we too must set aside a part of our day to learn and to grow in His Word so that we are better prepared to communicate with those with whom we come in contact. In Isaiah 30:15, we find that the children of Judah were instructed to trust in the Lord for their strength. We read: "...in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength..." It is during this "quietness" that we, too, will find our strength, our joy, and our reason for living.

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## "God First"

Have you robbed God lately? How can we withhold our time, treasure, and our talent from Him when He has given us so much—even all that we have?

One of the great merchantmen of this last century was John Wanamaker. The store in Philadelphia stands today as a monument to the greatness of this man. Long before we had the soundproof room of radio or TV studio, he built in his store such a room. Some years ago an old man came up and greeted a minister who had made mention of John Wanamaker in his message, and said: "Mister, I did the electrical work in that room. It was so quiet that a thunderstorm would come and go and you would never hear it." In that room Mr. Wanamaker went every day for at least 30 minutes and sat in silence and solitude, meditating, praying and reflecting, and got a grip on himself. Do you wonder that when he was an old man he held three great jobs at one time: Postmaster General of the United States, managing this world-famous store, and superintendent of the world's largest Sunday School? Someone once asked him how he could give his attention to all these things. He said, "Early in life I read, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these **things** shall be added unto you.' The Sunday School is my business, all the rest are the **things**."

Anyone who adopts the principle of "God first" as the theme of his life cannot fail. He may not have the riches of a John Wanamaker so far as this world is concerned, but his life will be so blessed that he will know success. On the other hand, when we rob God of what we owe Him we cannot win, no matter how hard we try.

A Chinese preacher, speaking of robbing, said: It came to pass that a man went to market with a string of seven coins. Seeing a beggar that asked

for alms, he gave the poor man six of the coins and kept one for himself. The beggar, instead of being thankful, followed the good man and stole the seventh coin, also. What an abominable wretch! Yes! And would you, to whom God has given six days, steal the seventh also? How can we withhold our time, money, or life itself, if you please, from the One who paid such a price to save us from eternal ruin?

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8).

"Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18).

When one will take a serious look at Christ on the cross and see Him dying for our sins, One who suffered for us, it will challenge us to live for Him. Have you looked toward the cross lately?



## Looking at God's Creation

by  
Karen S. Webb

As I enter the forest upon a green carpet of moss I marvel at the beautiful surroundings that I have invaded. Waving flowers seem to beckon me deeper into their majestic world, so I continue down the meandering path. The rustling wind lulls my troubled mind into a calm state that is open to tranquil thoughts. Sunlight filtering through the trees creates a breathtaking aura, and I feel my thoughts turning to the beauty of the area. As I sit beside the brook with water gently trickling down to a beautiful valley, I think about the God who created such a magnificent world as the one I am privileged to enjoy. The longer I ponder and gaze upon this quiet and peaceful portion of God's creation, the more thankful I grow for my precious Savior.

In the calmness of my forest refuge I realize how much time centers around myself in my everyday living. I know that I should spend quality time learning more about my Savior, but too often I seek pleasures for gratification instead of escaping for a quiet time talking with and learning more about my Savior. Failure to utilize or even make time to learn more about an infinite God is pitiful. I feel the refreshing aspects of time alone with God should cause Christians to seek quiet times daily to meditate upon God and His word.



# Senior

Leah

Each industry has the tendency to form its own vocabulary and, in like manner, so does the Christian realm. To a person not familiar with the Christian vernacular, words such as "salvation", "justification", "redemption", and "discipleship" have little to no meaning or have a very different meaning than the one intended by the user. Another one of these words is "prayer warrior." If you stop to think about it, the word sounds kind of silly. Yet, to those who understand the connotation, it carries with it the concept of a person who is in continuous communication with God and is always interceding on the behalf of others. To me, the phrase "prayer warrior" is synonymous with Mrs. Paul.

Born of Swedish parents on September 19, 1888 in Chicago, Mrs. Florence E. Paul came to our community in Northwest Indiana in 1952. Besides writing poetry, she became involved with child evangelism, a ministry she carried on for many years. She was a valued member of our church family. The thing that is probably most remembered about Mrs. Paul, however, is her extraordinary prayer life. She took the words of I Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing," to heart in a wonderful way.

In her later years, Mrs. Paul became an invalid



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# Servants

ilford

and could no longer attend church although she never ceased to be concerned for the ministries of the church and the needs of its members. As the years passed, new members were added to the church and were put on Mrs. Paul's prayer list - even though she had never met them. It was not unusual for someone to be introduced to Mrs. Paul only to hear her say, "I've been praying for you." What a fantastic testimony! It is unusual to find a person who prays faithfully for those she knows, but even more rare to find someone who prays just as faithfully for those she does not know.

When Mrs. Paul went to be with her Savior in February of 1983 at the age of ninety-four, she left our church family with an outstanding example to follow. May we follow it as well.



## "Break Away From Tradition"

by  
Benjamin Smith

There are many quiet times that we have throughout the day; however, the most important one is our quiet time with God. We want to consider our procedure of approaching God. There are many types of devotional books, and other people just read a passage from the Bible. Both of these are appropriate if they are administered in the correct way. We also must not forget to pray to our God, for we truly have much for which to thank Him.

I am going to address the topic of prayer first. Many times we forget to pray or else we spend such a short time in praying. I feel that this is wrong, and I constantly remind myself not to pray in this manner. I think that we must break away from traditions of this manner.

We also need to meditate upon our devotional moments, and thank the Spirit for His work in our lives. This is also equally important. Many times we do not meditate upon our devotions. There are many different approaches to devotionals, devotional books, and/or Bible passages. I also still have to work at this area of meditation on thoughts given to us through our quiet times.

The two things that we need to remember when we have our quiet times are that we need to meditate upon our devotional passage and we need to pray. We also, must have submissive attitudes. We need to break away from some traditions.

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# A Quiet Time With God

by  
Alise Alexander

Kati had lived all her life in the small African village of Maruo. It was a simple life: the men and older boys went into the forest or on the river each day to hunt for food, while the older girls and women tended their usually very large families.

After the last meal of the day her relatives, consisting of five families, gathered together to hear the fascinating stories of their ancestors.

These were great times of learning for the younger members of the tribe, but this evening Kati obtained permission to be absent from the meeting. She wandered out into the edge of the forest, and pensively sat down on a log from a huge, ancient tree. Kati could not seem to keep her mind off what the new missionaries to their village had been saying. These white men came from a far-off land telling of one great power in the sky called God. They had said, "God created everything you see around you. It is the work of His hands."

Kati had been taught in the nightly meetings that there were many gods, but it had never seemed right to her. The stories they told about these gods seemed to disagree with each other, and many of the images on the doorsteps of the huts were chipped and faded. Some of the idols were even missing arms and legs, and although

her father claimed these gods had power, the younger tribe members could not quite grasp the fact that these maimed images were in control.

Kati looked around her. The trees, which her father said had been there for many generations, were so big and were still reaching upward to the sky. She looked at the sky, and saw how beautiful the stars were. There were so many of them! "They all seem to fit together so well - the sun, moon, and stars, the trees and grass, the river and the fish - so many different gods could not have created such a sensible world." Continuing to look to the heavens, Kati prayed, "Great God, power in the heavens, I believe that you have created all this beauty. I no longer will put any trust in the powerless idols of my ancestors, but in You."

The missionaries had told the villagers that God had a message for them, and it was going to be put in their own language. Kati was now so excited to hear it! She vowed that once she had His word, she would go each day to a private place and spend time with God and His word. In the days to come she would share with others the quiet times in the forest she had with God and encourage them to seek Him, too. In her own words, "What a great privilege and responsibility it is to spend time each day with the creator of the universe—the true God of all."

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# Puzzle

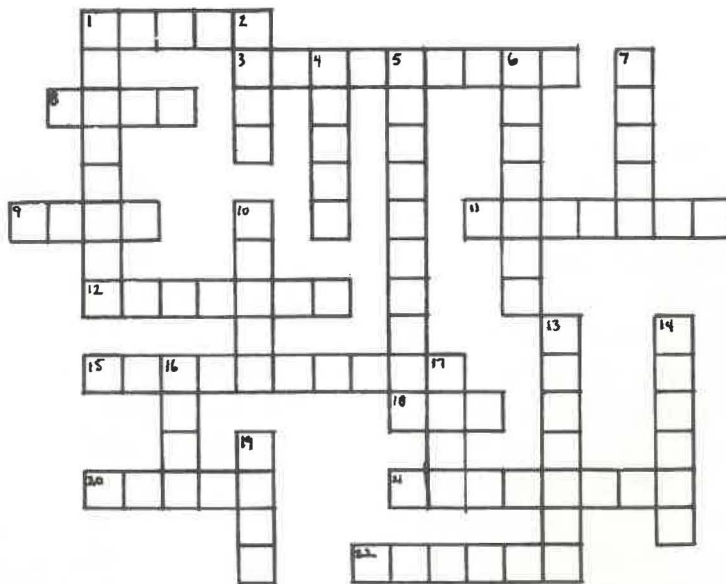
Mrs. Ruth Hickle

## DOWN

1. This is what He is to those who believe I Pet. 2:7
2. Jesus said His yoke was this.
4. Commune and be Psa. 4:4
5. Quiet times often bring this.
6. The Lord will do this on every side. Psa. 71:21
7. David's way of saying to pause and reflect on what has been said before; used throughout Psalms
10. "There is a place of rest, near to the heart of God"
13. my heart unto thy testimonies. Psa. 119:36
14. The trade-in garment God gives for the spirit of heaviness. Isa. 61H:3
16. James 4:8 says to nigh unto God.
17. Close to God Psa. 73:28
19. David did this morning, noon and evening. Psa. 55:17

## ACROSS

1. Thou wilt keep him in perfect Isa. 26:3
3. Fanny Crosby's hymn, "Blessed "
8. How it will be with God-fearers. Eccl. 8:12
9. Be still and that I am God. Psa. 46:10
11. the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Psa. 29:2
12. Come before his presence with Psa. 100:2
15. Let the of my heart be acceptable. Psa. 19:14
18. The life that is now in Christ
20. The Lord is my Psa. 18:2
21. II Peter 1:4 says we've been given these.
22. God is my rock, shield, high tower, and my II Sam. 22:3



## Staff Stats

Hi! My name is Leah Jayne, and I am a senior at Cedarville College majoring in psychology. This is my first year at Cedarville as I am a transfer student from Tennessee Temple University. I enjoy my job working in the Cedarville College Library and also other activities such as jogging, swimming, writing letters and reading. I suppose my favorite times are spent with my family; there are seven children-three boys and four girls. My father is pastor of a small church in Kitts Hill, Ohio. My dad led me to the Lord after family devotions when I was seven years old. I have always been thankful for my Christian family and for their loving influence in my life. I also appreciate the opportunity of writing for **Living Springs** and hope that I can be a help to others. I think that perhaps the greatest lesson I've learned this year is that God can and will take my failures, defeats, and negligence and turn them around for my best. Through this whole process, He draws me closer to Himself.



# Salvation

by  
Tracy Grimes

"Quiet times" are usually associated with the Christian life after salvation. The term is normally used to refer to that time spent daily in private, personal communion with God. In reality, quiet times play a much greater part in God's plan, especially in His plan of salvation. The role of quiet times in salvation is threefold: they are important before, during, and after the actual conversion experience.

A type of quiet time is quite important to salvation. God in the person of the Holy Spirit, works in the unsaved person's life and provides quiet times for him to contemplate his sinful state and realize his need for salvation. Job 37:14 says, "Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God." This testifies to the fact that, as humans, we must be still in order to hear the Holy Spirit's pleadings. We must also be quiet in our hearts and minds in order to hear God's people speak. This is evident in Ecclesiastes 9:17 when Solomon wrote, "The words of wise men are heard in quiet..."

The second important role of quiet times takes place during salvation. One must turn to God at a time spent in private communion with Him. The heart must be quieted and softened by the work of the Holy Spirit before salvation and, in

meekness, the sinner then turns to God for redemption from eternal death to eternal life. The Psalmist expands on this in Psalm 4:4: "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still."

The final and most well-known aspect of quiet times is that which occurs after salvation in the daily walk. In order to stay in touch with the Heavenly Father, the Christian must commune with Him on a daily basis. Through Scripture reading, God speaks, and through prayer the Christian returns that communication. David wrote, "My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up." (Psalm 5:3) He knew the importance of quiet times spent with his Lord.

Some results of these quiet times are obvious. The results of quiet times before salvation bring the realization of man's need, and the end result of this quiet time leads to peace through Christ's saving grace. Those private moments spent with the Lord after salvation are equally important. They provide a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father and a time when He can communicate His will to His children. The prophet Isaiah wrote about the results of those quiet times in Isaiah 32:17; "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."

## Living Springs

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*But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

John 4:14

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